

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 837 299 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
13.02.2002 Bulletin 2002/07

(51) Int Cl.7: **G01B 1/00, G01B 3/10**

(21) Application number: **96202899.9**

(22) Date of filing: **21.10.1996**

(54) **Device to be fastened to a free end of a measuring tape**

Vorrichtung zur Befestigung an ein freies Ende eines Massbandes

Dispositif à attacher au bout libre d'un ruban de mesure

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**

(74) Representative: **Hooiveld, Arjen Jan Winfried
Arnold & Siedsma Sweelinckplein 1
2517 GK Den Haag (NL)**

(43) Date of publication of application:
22.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/17

(56) References cited:
**EP-A- 0 079 096 FR-A- 2 669 997
GB-A- 910 497 GB-A- 1 080 402
GB-A- 1 109 359 GB-A- 2 272 290**

(73) Proprietor: **Lufkin Europa B.V.
7800 AB Emmen (NL)**

Remarks:

The file contains technical information submitted
after the application was filed and not included in this
specification

(72) Inventors:
• **Ten Caat, Harm
7891 CX Klazinaveen (NL)**
• **Kuiper, Gezinus
7761 HE Schoonebeek (NL)**

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Description

[0001] The invention relates to a device intended for being attached to a free end of a measuring tape, which device comprises at least two at least substantially plate-shaped parts which can be fitted together, between which parts the free end of the measuring tape can be provided.

[0002] A device of this kind is known from European patent publication No. 0 079 096 (Stanley-Mabo), wherein use is made of a hook which can pivot between a position of rest and an operating position. The known device is used in so-called "one man operation", which means that a user is able to place the hook on an object to be measured, walk to one end of the object with a reel on which the other end of the measuring tape is coiled and read the dimension of said object from the measuring tape himself, all this without any help. The device known from the aforesaid European patent is in particular used in the field of land surveying, the construction industry and the like. It will be apparent that it is of the utmost importance that dimensions of objects can be measured in a highly accurate manner with a measuring tape provided with the known device, that is, that in the operating position the hook (the inner side thereof) will continue to coincide very precisely with the zero point of a scale indication provided on the measuring tape during the entire life of the device. In this connection it is noted that the relevant EC-regulations in this field are very strict, whereby only measuring tapes provided with high-quality devices of the aforesaid type are awarded a stamp.

[0003] One drawback of the known device is that the measuring accuracy becomes less, especially after some time, as a result of which the statutory requirements are no longer met. This is caused by the fact that the known device uses fixed rivet pins which are passed through openings in the plate-shaped parts and the measuring tape, whereby the measuring tape is subsequently clamped down between the plate-shaped parts by upsetting the rivet pins. Said upsetting may either result in damage being done to the measuring tape (hair cracks), or in small spaces remaining between the rivet pins and the measuring tape.

[0004] The object of the invention is to provide a device for being attached to a free end of a measuring tape without play, and in order to accomplish that objective a device of the kind referred to in the introduction is characterized in that at least one of said plate-shaped parts is provided with means for form closing the free end of said measuring tape between said parts without the means of said part(s) being deformed. Preferably said means comprise a cam to be passed through an opening in the measuring tape, as well as at least one (more in particular two) contact surface for the cam positioned opposite said cam. As a result of this the measuring tape is "retained" between the two plate-shaped parts in a dimensionally stable manner, which is true in particular

when the cam has a substantially rectangular cross-section and the opening in the measuring tape is correspondingly shaped. By avoiding the use of rivet pins, it is prevented that the measuring tape is damaged or that some play will remain between the measuring tape and the parts forming the connection. Preferably a free end of at least one of said parts comprises a flat side corresponding with the zero point of a scale indication provided on the measuring tape, and a hook is provided, which is movable between a position of rest and an operating position, said hook in the position of rest extending at least substantially parallel to the measuring tape to be attached and in operating position extending at least substantially perpendicularly thereto, with its inner side at least substantially coinciding with the zero point of a scale indication provided on the measuring tape. Instead of using a hook it will also be possible to use a lip or the like, of course. This makes a measuring tape fitted with the present invention suitable for use in the aforesaid "one man operation". It is noted that the present invention is not limited to use in "one man operation", but that it may also be used in combination with a measuring tape for "two men operation". The device according to the invention is thereby attached to a free end of a measuring tape, whereby the zero point of a scale indication provided thereon is preceded by a blank starting piece. Said starting piece is thereby engaged by the present device. It will be apparent that in this manner a dimension of an object to be measured must be determined by two users.

[0005] In a preferred embodiment of a device according to the invention the plate-shaped parts are capable of clamping the free end of the measuring tape by means of a wedging action. More in particular, one part thereby comprises a pin provided with a wedging surface, which pin can be passed through an opening in the other part, whilst the edge of the opening in said other part comprises a corresponding wedging surface for mating with the wedging surface of said pin. Preferably said pin is the aforesaid cam. It is noted that it is not necessary for both parts to have a wedge-shaped surface; it is also possible for only one of the two to have a wedge-shaped surface. In order to facilitate the fitting together of the plate-shaped parts, said parts are preferably formed with intermating centring or positioning surfaces, as will be explained in more detail hereafter.

[0006] In another preferred embodiment of a device according to the invention said plate-shaped parts are at least substantially made of plastic material. The advantage of this is that plastic exhibits hardly any shrink, if at all, so that the material itself will not contribute towards any measuring variations that may occur.

[0007] British patent publication no. 1,109,359 (Quenot & Cie.) discloses a device intended for being attached to a free end of a measuring tape, which device comprises two plate-shaped parts, between which parts the free end of the measuring tape is clamped (see figures I and II). Clamping the measuring tape is realized

by rivet pins on the one plate-shaped part passing through openings in the other plate-shaped part and the measuring tape, whereby the measuring tape is subsequently clamped down between said plate-shaped parts by upsetting the rivet pins. As already indicated above, upsetting rivet pins as shown in this British prior art reference may either result in damage being done to the measuring tape (hair cracks), or in small spaces remaining between the rivet pins and the measuring tape, all leading to less accurate measurements.

[0008] French patent document no. 2,669,997 (Sam Outillage S.A.) also refers to a measuring tape being clamped between two plate-shaped parts using rivets (see figures 1 and 2).

[0009] The invention also relates to a measuring tape provided with a device according to the invention.

[0010] The invention will be explained in more detail with reference to Figures shown in a drawing, in which:

- Figure 1 is a perspective view of a measuring tape provided with a device according to the invention;
- Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the measuring tape comprising the device of Figure 1;
- Figure 3 is an exploded, perspective bottom view of the measuring tape and the at least substantially plate-shaped parts of the device of Figure 1;
- Figure 4 is a schematic plan view of one at least substantially plate-shaped part of the device of Figure 1;
- Figure 5 is a schematic, at least partially cutaway side view along line V-V of said part of Figure 4;
- Figure 6 is a schematic side view of the other at least substantially plate-shaped part of the device shown in Figure 1; and
- Figure 7 is a schematic, partially cutaway plan view of said part of Figure 6 (partially along line VII-VII).

[0011] Figure 1 shows a preferred embodiment of a device 1 according to the invention, which device is attached to a free end of a measuring tape 2. Said measuring tape 2, which will have a length of in particular 10 metres or more in practice, is at its other end coiled on a reel (not shown). The device 1 consists of two at least substantially plate-shaped parts which are fitted together, between which the free end of measuring tape 2 is provided. A scale indication provided on measuring tape 2 continues-possibly imaginarily so - on the at least substantially plate-shaped part 3, in such a manner that a flat side 5 at the free end of said part 3 corresponds with the zero point of the scale indication provided on measuring tape 2. Hereinafter the at least substantially plate-shaped parts 3,4 will also be called upper lower plates

3 and 4 respectively. The two plates 3,4 have corresponding holes, through which a pivot pin 6 is passed in order to allow a hook 7 to pivot thereabout. Figure 1 shows hook 7 in an operating position, in which it extends perpendicularly to measuring tape 2 and in which its inner side coincides with the zero point of the aforesaid scale indication provided thereon. Hook 7 can be pivoted from the operating position to a position of rest, in which it extends parallel to measuring tape 2. Hook 7 has projecting teeth 8, which function to enhance its grip on an object to be measured. Device 1 furthermore comprises a pull loop 9 mounted on pivot pin 6, so that the user need not take hold of the unit by the hook 7 with the risk of his fingers being injured by the teeth 8.

[0012] Figure 2 is an exploded view of the device 1 and the measuring tape 2 attached thereto, wherein parts corresponding with those of Figure 1 are indicated by the same numerals. In Figure 2 the holes formed in upper plate 3, lower plate 4, hook 7 and pull loop 9 for accommodating pivot pin 6 are all indicated by numeral 10 for easy reference.

[0013] In order to cause the free end of measuring tape 2 to be retained between upper and lower plate 3,4 without any essential parts being deformed, upper plate 3 is provided with a cam 12 which can be inserted into an opening 11 in measuring tape 2, said cam in the assembled condition furthermore extending through an opening 13 in lower plate 4 (Figure 3). In this condition the free end of measuring tape 2 butts against contact surfaces 14, 15, thus ensuring that measuring tape 2 will remain retained between plates 3,4 in a dimensionally stable manner for the entire life of the device 1. This dimensional stability is in particular realised because the contact surfaces 14, 15 and the opposite contact surface 20 of cam 12 are positioned on the circumference of an imaginary triangle. As is shown in Figure 3, cam 12 is configured to have a centring or positioning surface 16 and a wedging surface 17, whose function will be explained in more detail below with reference to Figures 4, 5 6 and 7.

[0014] Figure 4 is a schematic plan view of lower plate 4, wherein the edge of opening 13 has a wedging surface 18 corresponding with wedging surface 17 of cam 12 provided on upper plate 3. In the assembled condition of device 1 wedging surface 18 mates with the wedging surface of cam 12. More in particular, when the lower plate 4 is being fitted on upper plate 3 said lower plate will at the same time be pushed forwards, in the direction of hole 10 in upper plate 3, as well as downwards by the mating wedging surfaces 17, 18, thus effecting a satisfactory clamping action between the two plates 3,4. The edge of opening 13 forms a fork-shaped member, as it were, at the location of the wedging surface. Figure 5 is a partially cutaway side view of lower plate 4 of Figure 4, seen along line V-V. Also in this Figure those parts that correspond with parts shown in preceding Figures are indicated by the same numerals, and the same applies to Figures 6 and 7, which will be dis-

cussed below.

[0015] Figure 6 is a side view of upper plate 3, which clearly shows the wedge shape, that is, the downward slope of the wedging surface 17 in the direction of hole 10 in Figure 6. This also applies, mutatis mutandis, to the wedge-shaped centring or positioning surface 16 as shown in Figure 7. In Figure 7 surface 16 widens laterally towards hole 10. When the plates 3,4 are fitted together the centring or positioning surface 16 of cam 12 will mate with a corresponding centring or positioning surface 19 of the aforesaid fork-shaped member. This ensures a correct positioning of the two plates 3,4 relative to each other. It is noted that upper and lower plates 3,4 are preferably entirely made of plastic material, as a result of which there will be hardly any shrink (as known with other materials), if at all, so that the respective axes of holes 10 of all parts (cf. Figure 2) will be in line. As a result of the above-described wedging action an excellent matching of the free end of measuring tape 2 between upper and lower plates 3,4 is ensured. If there should be a small amount of play after all, this will be eliminated by the wedging action upon insertion of the pivot pin 6 into holes 10. Pivot 6 has been manufactured by an extrusion process rather than by a turning operation for that matter, which helps to reduce the occurrence of variations.

[0016] It is noted that the present invention is not limited to the preferred embodiment discussed with reference to the Figures, but that it also extends to other variants falling within the scope of the appended claims.

[0017] As an example it may be considered to glue the two plates 3,4 together instead of clamping them together by means of the above-described wedging action.

Claims

1. A device (1) intended for being attached to a free end of a measuring tape (2), said device comprises at least two at least substantially plate-shaped parts (3, 4) arranged for being fitted together and arranged for providing the free end of said measuring tape (2) between them without play, *characterized in that* at least one of said plate shaped parts (3, 4) is provided with means (12, 13) for positively locking the free end of said measuring tape (2) between said plate shaped parts (3, 4) without said means (12, 13) of said plate shaped parts (3) being deformed.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said means (12,13) comprise a cam (12) which can be passed through an opening (11) in said measuring tape (2), and wherein said means (12,13) furthermore comprise at least one contact surface (14,15) for said measuring tape (2), which is positioned opposite said cam (12).
3. A device according to claim 2, wherein said cam (12) has an at least substantially rectangular cross-section.
4. A device according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said plate-shaped parts (3,4) are capable of clamping the free end of said measuring tape (2) by means of a wedging action.
5. A device according to claim 4, wherein one of said parts (3) comprises a pin (12) provided with a wedging surface (17), which pin (12) can be passed through an opening (13) in the other of said parts (4), and wherein the edge of opening (13) in said other of said parts (4) comprises a corresponding wedging surface (18) for mating with wedging surface (17) of said pin (12).
6. A device according to claim 5, wherein said pin (12) is the aforesaid cam (12).
7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims 1 - 6, wherein said plate-shaped parts (3,4) are provided with centring or positioning surfaces (16,19) intended for mating with each other.
8. A device according to any one of the preceding claims 1 - 7, wherein said plate-shaped parts (3,4) are at least substantially made of plastic material.
9. A device according to any one of the preceding claims 1-8, wherein at least one of said parts (3,4) comprises a flat side (5) corresponding with the zero point of a scale indication provided on the measuring tape (2), and a hook (7) is provided, which is movable between a position of rest and an operating position, said hook (7) in the position of rest extending at least substantially parallel to the measuring tape (2) to be attached and in operating position extending at least substantially perpendicularly thereto, with its inner side at least substantially coinciding with the zero point of a scale indication provided on the measuring tape.
10. A device according to claim 9, wherein said hook (7) can pivot about a pivot pin (6) accommodated in a hole (10) formed in at least one of said plate-shaped parts (3,4).
11. A measuring tape (2) provided with a device according to any one of the preceding claims 1-10.

Patentansprüche

1. Vorrichtung (1), die zur Anbringung an einem freien Ende eines Messbandes (2) bestimmt ist, wobei die Vorrichtung wenigstens zwei wenigstens im We-

sentlichen plattenförmige Teile (3, 4) umfasst, die zusammengesetzt werden und das freie Ende des Messbandes (2) ohne Spiel zwischen ihnen bilden, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:

- 5 wenigstens eines der plattenförmigen Teile (3, 4) mit Einrichtungen (12, 13) versehen ist, die das freie Ende des Messbandes (2) formschlüssig zwischen den plattenförmigen Teilen (3, 4) fixieren, ohne dass die Einrichtungen (12, 13) der plattenförmigen Teile (3) verformt werden. 10
2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Einrichtungen (12, 13) einen Nocken (12) umfassen, der durch eine Öffnung (11) in dem Messband (2) hindurchgeführt werden kann, und wobei die Einrichtungen (12, 13) des Weiteren wenigstens eine Kontaktfläche (14, 15) für das Messband (2) umfassen, die gegenüber dem Nocken (12) angeordnet ist. 15 20
3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 2, wobei der Nocken (12) einen wenigstens im Wesentlichen rechteckigen Querschnitt hat. 25
4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, wobei die plattenförmigen Teile (3, 4) das freie Ende des Messbandes (2) durch eine Keilwirkung festklemmen können. 30
5. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 4, wobei eines der Teile (3) einen Zapfen (12) umfasst, der mit einer Keilfläche (17) versehen ist, und der Zapfen (12) durch eine Öffnung (13) in dem anderen der Teile (4) hindurchgeführt werden kann, und wobei der Rand der Öffnung (13) in dem anderen der Teile (4) eine entsprechende Keilfläche (18) umfasst, die mit der Keilfläche (17) des Zapfens (12) in Eingriff kommt. 35
6. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 5, wobei der Zapfen (12) der erwähnte Nocken (12) ist. 40
7. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche 1 - 6, wobei die plattenförmigen Teile (3, 4) mit Zentrier- bzw. Positionierflächen (16, 19) versehen sind, die zum Eingriff miteinander bestimmt sind. 45
8. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche 1 - 7, wobei die plattenförmigen Teile (3, 4) wenigstens teilweise aus Kunststoffmaterial bestehen. 50
9. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche 1 - 8, wobei wenigstens eines der Teile (3, 4) eine flache Seite (5) umfasst, die dem Nullpunkt einer Skalanzeige entspricht, die auf dem Messband (2) vorhanden ist, und ein Haken (7) vor-

handen ist, der zwischen einer Ruheposition und einer Funktionsposition bewegt werden kann, wobei sich der Haken (7) in der Ruheposition wenigstens im Wesentlichen parallel zu dem anzubringenden Messband (2) erstreckt und sich in der Funktionsposition wenigstens im Wesentlichen senkrecht dazu erstreckt, und wobei seine Innenseite wenigstens im Wesentlichen mit dem Nullpunkt einer Skalanzeige zusammenfällt, die auf dem Messband vorhanden ist.

10. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, wobei der Haken (7) um einen Schwenkbolzen (6) herum geschwenkt werden kann, der in einem Loch (10) aufgenommen ist, das in wenigstens einem der plattenförmigen Teile (3, 4) ausgebildet ist. 55

11. Messband (2) das mit einer Vorrichtung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche 1 - 10 versehen ist. 60

Revendications

1. Dispositif (1) destiné à être fixé sur une extrémité libre d'un mètre à ruban (2), ledit dispositif comprend au moins deux parties (3, 4) de forme au moins sensiblement plate, agencées de manière à être assemblées l'une sur l'autre et agencées de manière à placer l'extrémité libre dudit mètre à ruban (2) sans jeu entre elles, caractérisé en ce que: 65
au moins l'une desdites parties de forme plate (3, 4) comporte des moyens (12, 13) destinés à bloquer fermement l'extrémité libre dudit mètre à ruban (2) entre lesdites parties de forme plate (3, 4) sans déformer lesdits moyens (12, 13) desdites parties de forme plate (3).
2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel lesdits moyens (12, 13) comprennent une came (12) qui peut être insérée à travers une ouverture (11) dans ledit mètre à ruban (2), et dans lequel lesdits moyens (12, 13) comprennent, en outre, au moins une surface de contact (14, 15) pour ledit mètre à ruban (2), qui est positionnée à l'opposé de ladite came (12). 70
3. Dispositif selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ladite came (12) présente une section transversale au moins sensiblement rectangulaire. 75
4. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, dans lequel lesdites parties de forme plate (3, 4) permettent de bloquer l'extrémité libre dudit mètre à ruban (2) par une action de coincement. 80
5. Dispositif selon la revendication 4, dans lequel l'un (3) desdites parties comprend une broche (12) 85

comportant une surface de coincement (17), laquelle broche (12) peut être insérée à travers une ouverture (13) dans l'autre (4) desdites parties, et dans lequel le bord de l'ouverture (13) dans ladite autre (4) desdites parties comprend une surface de coincement (18) correspondante, destinée à coopérer avec la surface de coincement (17) de ladite broche (12).

6. Dispositif selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ladite broche (12) est la came (12) mentionnée précédemment. 10
7. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6 précédentes, dans lequel lesdites parties de forme plate (3, 4) comportent des surfaces de centrage ou de positionnement (16, 19), destinées à coopérer l'une avec l'autre. 15
8. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7 précédentes, dans lequel lesdites parties de forme plate (3, 4) sont au moins principalement réalisées en matière plastique. 20
9. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 8 précédentes, dans lequel au moins une desdites parties (3, 4) comprend une face plate (5) correspondant au point zéro d'une échelle graduée formée sur le mètre à ruban (2), et un crochet (7), qui est mobile entre une position de repos et une position opérationnelle, est formé, ledit crochet (7), dans la position de repos, s'étendant au moins sensiblement parallèlement au mètre à ruban (2) de manière à être fixé et, dans la position opérationnelle, s'étendant au moins sensiblement perpendiculairement à celui-ci, sa face interne coïncidant au moins sensiblement avec le point zéro d'une échelle graduée présente sur le mètre à ruban. 25 30 35
10. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ledit crochet (7) peut pivoter autour d'une broche pivot (6) reçue dans un orifice (10) formé dans au moins une desdites parties de forme plate (3, 4). 40
11. Mètre à ruban (2) comportant un dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 10 précédentes. 45

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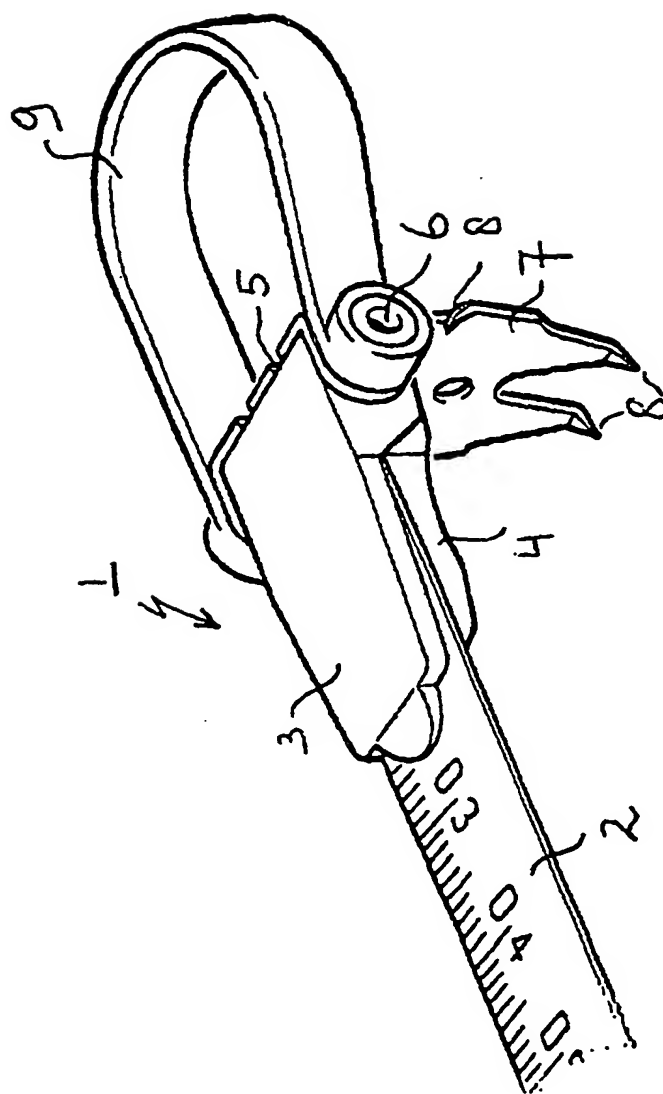
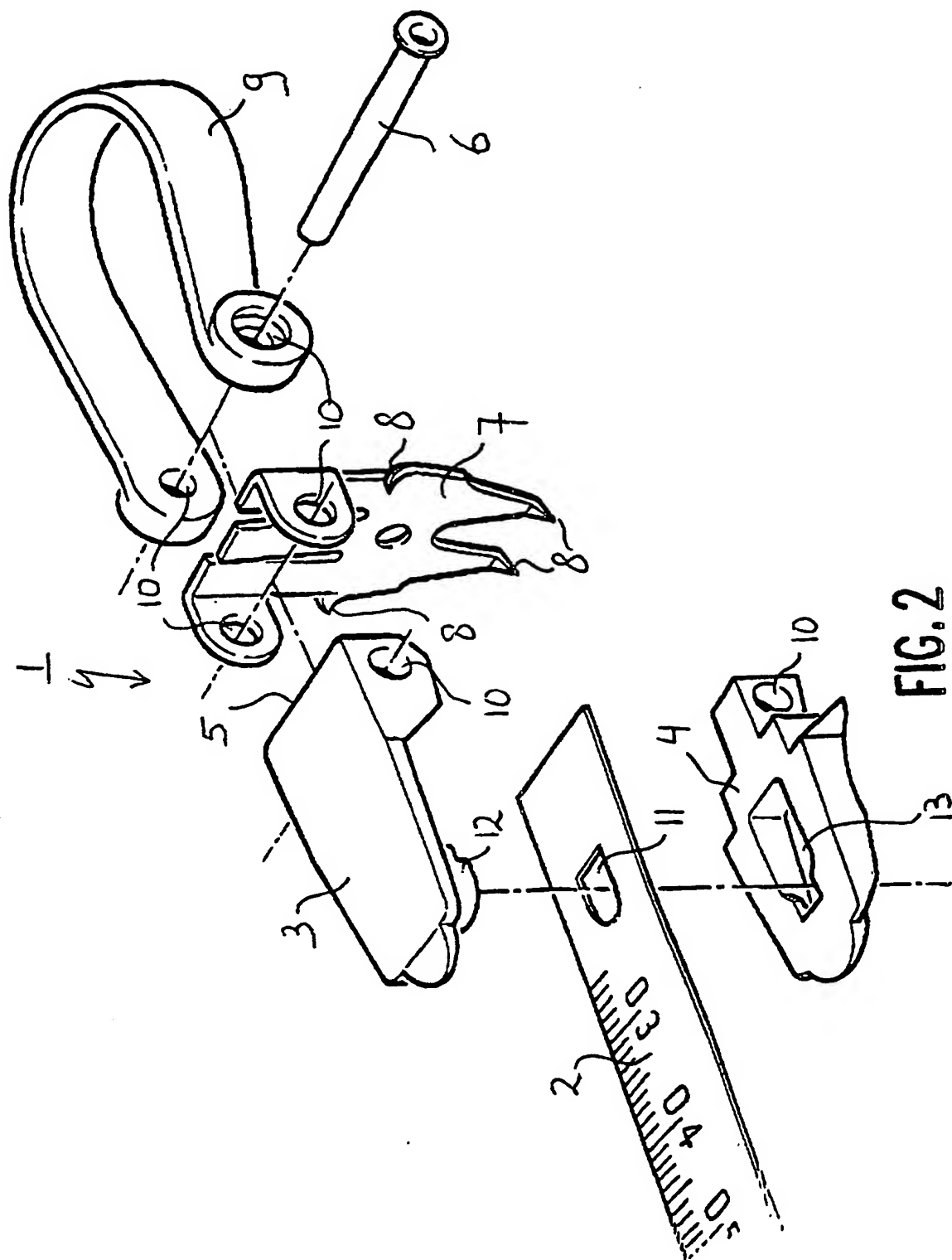


FIG. 1



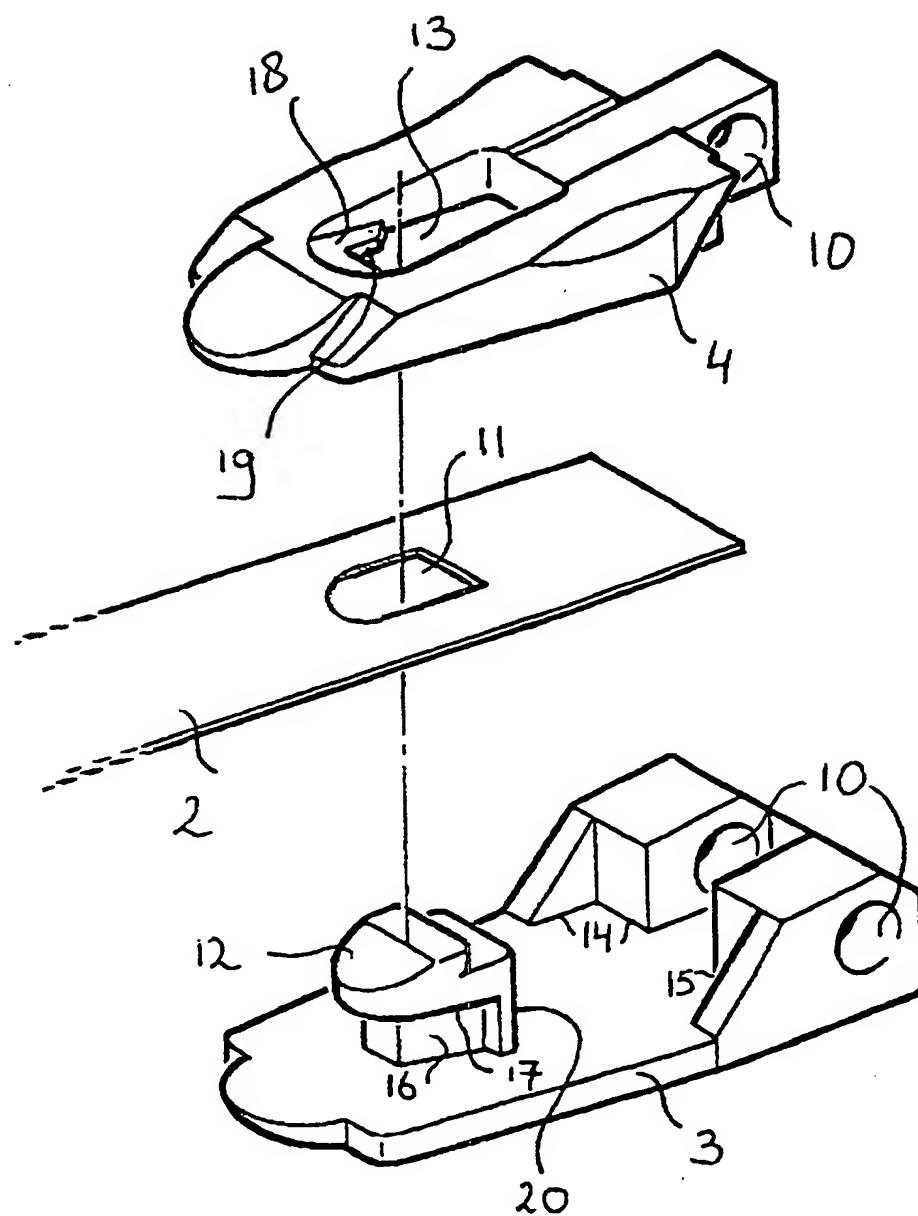


FIG. 3

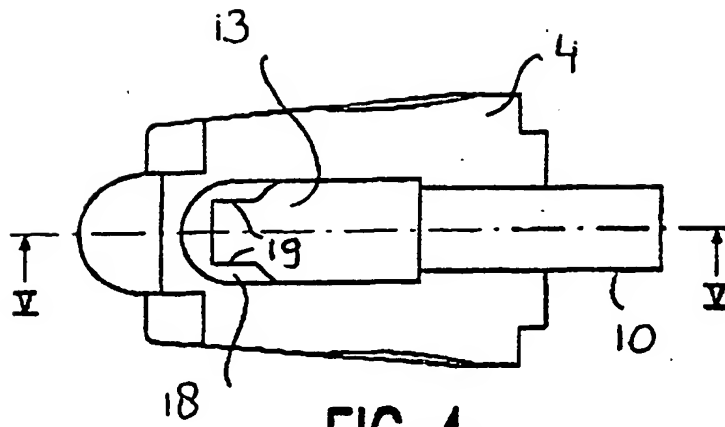


FIG. 4

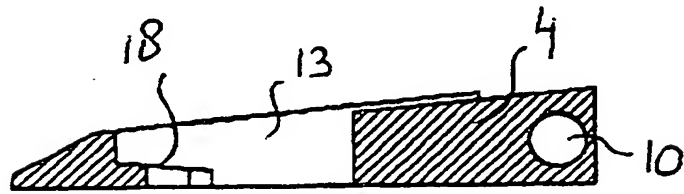


FIG. 5

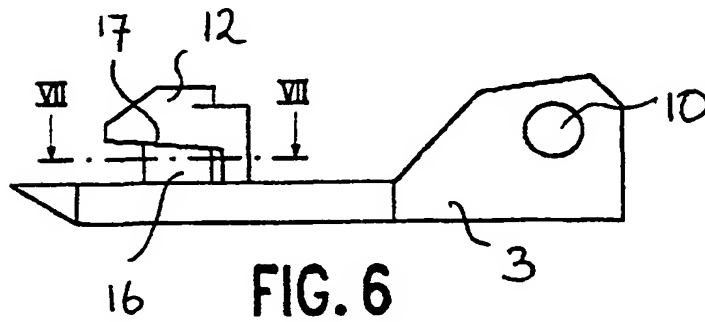


FIG. 6

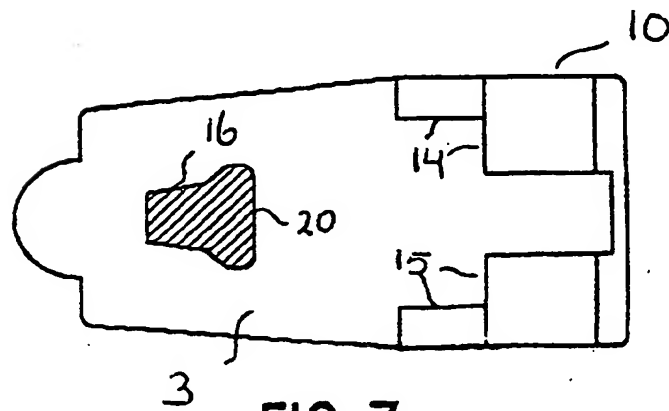


FIG. 7